



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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4 MAY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~



DAILY BRIEF
4 MAY 1965

LATE ITEM

(Information as of 5:00 p.m. EDT)

Dominican Republic

The rebels have made a ploy to seize the political initiative.

By creating a provisional government under "president" Colonel Caamano, they probably hope to gain some semblance of international standing and obtain a bargaining counter for any compromise settlement of the situation. The rebels were reported this morning to be confident that Caamano would have a position in any new Dominican junta and are counting on him for posts in whatever government emerges.

The US Embassy is recommending the establishment of a broad-based junta, including responsible civilians, headed by Antonio Imbert. Imbert, the embassy believes, is the only man on hand who could form an effective government. Colonel Benoit would be the military representative on the junta.

The Organization of American States mission in Santo Domingo has accepted the idea of an inter-American military force. The mission has also asked that the zone of security formed in the city by US forces be expanded to protect "all the embassies." Military commands on both sides have approved the zone.

The military situation remains relatively quiet, although occasional rebel sniping continues.

A pro-Castro clandestine radio is urging its listeners to fire against US troops that stray outside the international zone. In the rural areas, there is still no sign of any appreciable support for the rebels.

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1. North Vietnam

In addition to the continuing work on the Hanoi surface-to-air missile site, evidence continues to arrive regarding measures being taken to improve North Vietnamese air defenses.

Vietnamese jet fighter pilots are now receiving advanced tactical training in south China, including night flying in Chinese Communist jet trainers. In North Vietnam, revetments are being added and runways are being improved at several airfields. These fields can soon be used either for aircraft dispersals or recovery bases, thus extending the combat time of jet fighter missions.

[redacted] the US mission in Saigon suggests that the timing of any new major Viet Cong drive may be dependent on the acquisition of strengthened air defenses in North Vietnam. The mission indicates it has no evidence as to when this condition may be met to the satisfaction of Hanoi.

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2. South Vietnam

Assessment of military reports over the past week (24 April - 1 May) shows a slight increase in Viet Cong-initiated terrorist and military actions. It also shows that the Viet Cong used larger units than in previous weeks.

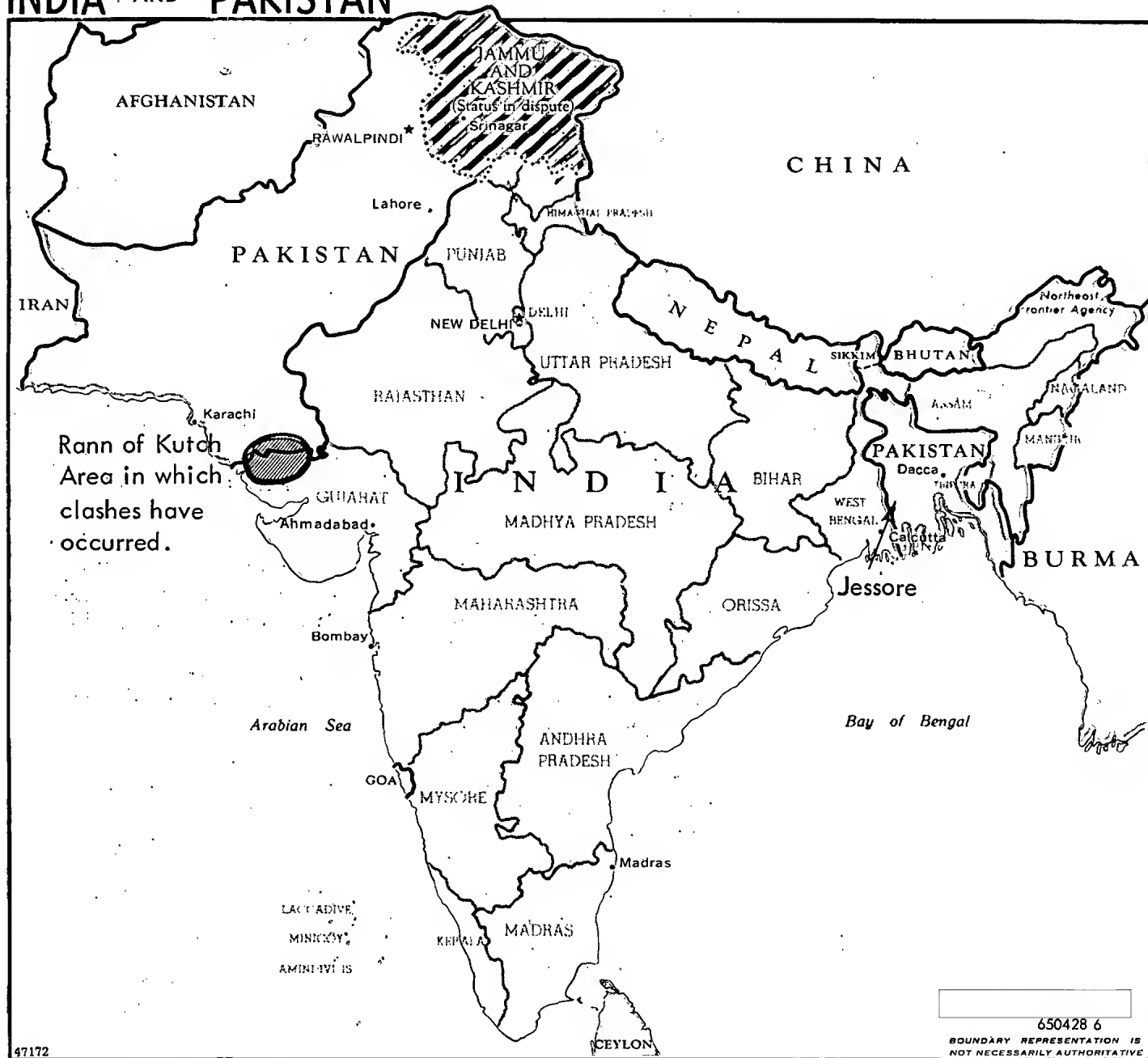
These increases do not amount to the initiation of a major guerrilla campaign. Instead, they suggest that the Viet Cong may be testing out recently reorganized and retrained units, possibly in anticipation of a concentrated effort in the near future.

In Saigon, there are rumors of a new coup attempt, but so far there is no good evidence on it. The rumors may spring from the anticipated cabinet and military changes by Premier Quat, combined with mutual Catholic-Buddhist suspicions.

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INDIA AND PAKISTAN

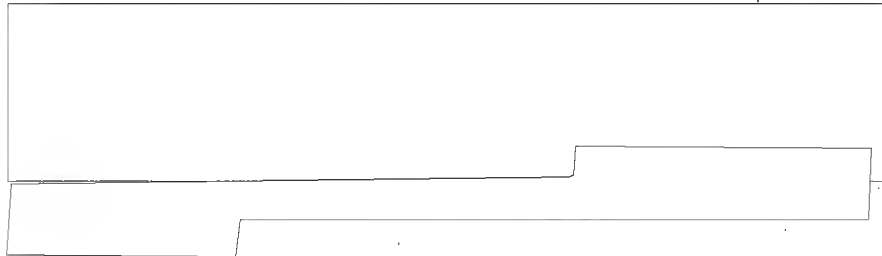


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3. Laos

Holdouts from the right-wing pro-Phoumi mutiny of mid-April are at last throwing in the sponge. Several leaders have crossed the Mekong and turned themselves in to the Thais, and the troops themselves are now starting to surrender. At least 60 have done so in the past few days.

4. Indonesia



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5. India

There is mounting danger that Indian leaders may sanction a reprisal "raid" against Pakistan--most likely in the Jessore area of East Pakistan. (See map.)

British efforts to improve the durability of the de facto cease-fire in the Rann of Kutch go on, but these are becoming haggling sessions over basic definitions of the problem. Meanwhile, more and more pressure is being placed on Shastri to take some form of retaliation against Pakistan.



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The press is harping on charges--thus far undocumented--of a military build-up in East Pakistan involving the presence of Chinese officers.

In the Rann of Kutch itself, nature should take over in about two weeks when flooding is expected to drive out both protagonists.



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